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SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

DOL/ILAB FOR LEYLA STROTKAMP, RACHEL RIGBY AND TINA MCCARTER

DRL/ILCSR FOR SARAH MORGAN

G/TIP FOR LUIS CDEBACA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL PHUM ELAB PGOV UZ

SUBJECT: Uzbekistan: Follow up on DOL Request for Information on Child Labor and Forced Labor

REF: 10 TASHKENT 59; 2/24/2010 E-MAIL FROM BRANDIE SASSER

¶1. (U) Post submitted its response to DOL's request for information on child labor and forced labor in Ref A. DOL requested follow up information in Ref B regarding the use of adult labor in the production of goods, pursuant to Task 1 under the TVPRA.

¶2. (U) Adult forced labor (in addition to child labor) is used in the production of cotton. Most often, local administrators will instruct government workers to pick cotton during the annual fall harvest, usually for four to six weeks. Teachers, medical workers, local bureaucrats, and sometimes even police officers leave their regular duties to participate in the harvest (teachers often serve as de facto "foremen" for their students in the field). Following the harvest, these workers return to their normal duties. There are no statistics on how many people are involved in such practices, but there have been reports that the numbers increased during the 2009 harvest, perhaps because fewer children worked the fields this year.

¶3. (U) Please note that cotton is already on DOL's current TVPRA list of goods. Post has received no other reports of adult forced labor.

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